



WEST DES MOINES HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, April 14, 2022
City Hall Council Chambers/ZOOM

Commissioners Present: Dr. Rich Salas, Milton Cole, Tiffany Berkenes, Lonnette Dafney (ZOOM), Shaimaa Aly,
Commissioners Absent: Chandlor Collins
Staff Representative: Hannah Guck (zoom) and Audrey Kennis (ZOOM)
Council Liaison: Councilwoman Renee Hardman
Absent: Andrew O'Leary
Guests:

- **Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 4:42 p.m.
- **Roll call**
- **Opportunity for public to address the Commission**
- **Guest Speaker: Audrey Kennis, DEI Director**
 - PowerPoint shared with the Commissioners
- **Staff Report**
 - On Friday, May 29 Juneteenth Planning Committee will meet at 12 noon. If any Commissioners are interested, please reach out to Audrey.
 - Audrey explained the reoccurring issue with the Public Library. Library is currently implementing a policy that requires a parent / adult to be present while the student is in the library. Audrey expressed that a space is needed for these youth/students. A meeting will be held with JYI, & WDM City. Volunteers are needed for after school hours to spend time with these students. Tiffany suggested involving the 4-H program or having silver cord hour students involved.
 - May 7 – Black and Brown Summit.
 - A proclamation for Asian American Heritage & Pacific Islander Heritage month will be presented soon.
- **Council Report**
 - Renee stated comp plan regarding the growth of the City will be open to the public on the website.
 - Black and Brown Summit – put together by WDM Chamber of Commerce.
 - Celebrate the work of the Ukraine Vigil – good turnout, people showed up and voices were heard.
- **Report from Commissioners on recent activities**
 - No new calls/voicemails
 - Tiffany will be attending Iowa Safe Schools event on April 15.
 - Chandler will be speaking to supervisors of Polk county.
- **Old Business**
 - No report
- **New Business**
 - Commission took a photo but will have another one done due to lack of attendees.
 - Mental Health Awareness is for the month of May.

- **Update on Sponsorships**
 - DMU Juneteenth Sponsorship
 - Taste of the Junction Event – Sponsor?
- **Next meeting date: May 12, 2022**

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm. Commissioner Rich moved to adjourn; Commissioner Lonnie seconded.

Minutes by: Hannah Guck, Staff Representative